

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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## Public Spirit

By Walter E. Myer

GO into any community, town or school and find out as much as you can about the people you see—the citizens of the town or the students of the school. You will soon observe that a good many of the people, probably a majority, aren't much interested in the town or the school. They think enough of it in a way, but they will not work or sacrifice for it.

These people lack public spirit or school spirit. Some of them are lazy. They seem not to have enough energy, enough force or drive to do any avoidable work. Some are dull. Others are so completely absorbed with their own affairs, with selfish pleasures or money making, that they haven't time for community enterprises.

Such citizens may be pleasant and agreeable. They may obey all the rules and laws. But if there are too many of them in a city it will be backward and unprogressive. Schools will be poorly equipped. Recreation facilities and all kinds of public works will be unsupported. New industries will be absent. The community will suffer from lack of leadership.

A lively, flourishing city, a school with high standards, with busy, enthusiastic activities—these are not built by the selfish, the dull, the self-centered. A community is kept alive and growing by men and women who are interested in the public welfare and who give time and effort to public enterprises.



Walter E. Myer

The active, alert, public-spirited citizen does a great deal that he is not paid for doing. He gives time, for example, to the Community Chest. He does jury duty when called upon. He supports movements for better recreation

and library facilities. He volunteers his services in many ways. He has energy, faith and vision, and he strives to make his community a better place in which to live.

Every city, town, village in the land must have a considerable number of such leaders among the inhabitants if it is to be modern and prosperous. These leaders are responsible for most of the progress which has ever been achieved.

One who studies a school closely, and who becomes well acquainted with the students, will see the lines already being drawn. Some of the students will be showing signs of public spirit and leadership. They will be working for the school and its activities and enterprises. Others will be falling back, doing what they are required to do, following selfish interests.

The habits formed in the school days are likely to be maintained later in life. The student who works at the school's affairs and activities today will probably be working at public problems tomorrow. The student leader of today will probably be a community leader in the years to come. The student who works for his school as well as himself is on the right track. He is on the road to patriotic leadership.



"SHOULD he have this weapon just in case?"

## Universal Training

Congress Will Consider Plan Requiring Young Men between 18 and 20 to Have a Period of Military Service

ONE of the big questions which Congress faces is this: Should the United States adopt a plan which would require every young man between the ages of 18 and 20 to take a year of peacetime military training?

President Truman, military leaders, and supporters of the plan in Congress and among the American people say "Yes." They believe that universal military training should be approved without delay in order to strengthen the defenses of our country.

Opponents of the plan, both in Congress and throughout the country, reply that compulsory military training in peacetime is unwise. They argue that there are better ways of defending the country.

The plan is set forth in a bill now before Congress. The measure calls for young men between 18 and 20 who are physically fit to undergo a period of military training. They would not be members of the regular Army, Navy, and Air Force, but would serve in a separate organization. They would wear uniforms, however, and would receive their training from Army, Navy, and Air Force men.

A young man would spend six months in one of the special camps set up for the training program. He could round out his period of service by spending another six months at camp, or he could complete the term in any one of the following ways:

(1) He could enlist in the regular Army, Navy, or Air Force. (2) He could enlist in a National Guard or military reserve group. (3) He could enroll for training at a technical school approved by the armed forces.

(4) He could go to college and take military training there as one of his courses. (5) He could meet the requirement if he went to West Point or Annapolis.

From 850,000 to 1,000,000 young men a year would go through this program of training. After their service, they would become members of the nation's military reserve. They could be called for further training and service only in case of a national emergency. Even then they could not be called up automatically, but would be taken under the rules of a draft law such as was used to select men for service during World Wars I and II.

Here is what the supporters of this plan say in favor of it:

"Our country should do everything within its power to help keep peace in the world. As part of this effort, we should continue our support of the United Nations, in the hope that it will become a strong organization.

"At the same time, we must keep ourselves strong, just in case the attempt to keep peace in the world fails. If we neglect our defenses while there is still danger of war, we are asking for trouble. We are letting other nations know that a powerful surprise attack on us might have a good chance of succeeding.

"We should let would-be aggressors know that we are well prepared to defend ourselves. One of the ways in which we can do this is to have all our young men trained for service in the armed forces.

"This training should not be put off until trouble begins, because mod-

(Concluded on page 6)

## Romania Under Soviet Control

Communists Strengthen Hold On Nation Long Troubled by Strife and Poverty

THE steady tightening of communism's grip on Romania continues. King Michael, who had been occupying the Romanian throne until late last month, did not agree with the Communists. Even though he had little actual power, his opponents knew that he was a symbol of the old way of life in Romania, and that he might eventually cause the Communists trouble. So he was forced to resign.

Ever since the end of the war, Romania's government has been developing into a dictatorship like that of Russia. It is headed by Premier Petru Groza. Large numbers of the people undoubtedly oppose having such a government, but they have little chance to express their opposition. Those who dare to speak out against the communist regime are severely punished.

Dictatorship, however, is not a new experience for the Romanians. In fact, Romanian historians argue as to whether their country has ever had a fair, free election. As World War II began, the nation was under the dictatorship of King Carol II. In 1940, Carol left the throne to his son, Michael, who at that time was 19 years old. General Ion Antonescu, a friend of Nazi Germany, became dictator. Romania entered the war on the side of Germany. A number of her army divisions went with the Germans into Russia.

A few years later, when the tide of war turned against Germany and the smaller Axis countries, King Michael obtained the help of some anti-Nazis and jailed Antonescu. A new government was established. Romania surrendered to her former enemies and declared war upon Germany. Russian troops, in pursuit of the retreating

(Concluded on page 2)



ANA PAUKER, outstanding Communist leader in Romania



# Romania

(Concluded from page 1)

Axis forces, poured into Romania. Ever since that time, Romania has been under Soviet influence and occupied by Russian soldiers.

An Allied Control Commission, made up of American, British, and Soviet officials, was established to supervise the government of this former Axis partner. A Russian became chairman of the commission and dominated it. Russian officials made sure that important government posts were filled with Communists or their sympathizers.

Russia still has a great many troops in Romania, even though a treaty of peace between that Balkan country and the World War II Allies has gone into effect. The treaty permits these soldiers to remain for the purpose of safeguarding the Russian supply route to the Soviet occupation zone of Austria. So long as they stay, they will be able to support the native Romanian Communists.

Until last month, the Communists who controlled Romania allowed King Michael to stay on the throne. Observers all over the world were wondering how long the country would remain a "Communist monarchy." Michael did not favor the officials that Russia had forced him to appoint, but he could not do much to hinder them. He spent a great deal of his time away from Bucharest, the capital city, tinkering with his automobiles or flying his airplanes.

The people seemed to like him, so the Communists let him remain for a while as king. But as the friends of Russia stepped up their activities, it became more and more difficult for Michael to get along with them. Finally, when an opportunity presented itself, he resigned. Then the government announced that Romania had become a "People's Republic."

That nation, though, is very different from a republic as we in America understand the term. It is dangerous for anyone in Romania to express opinions against the government. Newspapers are strictly censored. Many anti-Communists have been arrested and mistreated. Juliu Maniu,



FORMER KING MICHAEL of Romania and Princess Anne of Denmark. Michael insists that he did not leave his throne because of Anne, and any plans there may have been for a royal wedding have been postponed indefinitely.

head of an opposition party, was recently sentenced to solitary confinement for life.

Although Romania's government is patterned after that of the Soviet Union, it has not yet gone as far as the Russian leaders have in taking over the ownership of business and industry. Nevertheless, businessmen are rigidly controlled.

Observers report that there is a great deal of bribery and corruption in Romania. A minor government official, for example, can threaten to accuse someone of anti-Communist activity. The person threatened knows that unless he bribes the official he will probably be jailed or harmed in some other way.

A large volume of Romanian goods has been going to Russia. According to the peace treaty, Romania was supposed to give Russia 300 million dollars' worth of reparations, or payment for war damages. Economists say, though, that the Soviet Union has already taken much more than that, in material, from Romania.

Moreover, Russian firms have managed to get control of some rich Romanian oil fields, forests, coal mines and factories. This arrangement greatly benefits the Soviet Union

now, and it binds Russia's and Romania's economic systems together.

While Russians and local Communists are making the most of their powerful position in Romania, large numbers of the Romanian people are suffering because of high prices and severe shortages of goods. Last summer, for example, men's shoes cost more than the average worker could expect to earn in a month. Prices have gone so high during the past few years that prewar savings have been of little real value.

Within an area a little smaller than Oregon, Romania has almost 16 million people. She has been greatly favored by nature. The nation possesses large areas of black, fertile soil which, with suitable methods of agriculture, can produce sufficient food for the home population and also large quantities for sale abroad. In addition to grain, the land produces fruit, beans, potatoes, and sugar beets. Many cattle and sheep are raised in southeastern Romania.

In the rugged Carpathian Mountains, which slope downward to the Danube River basin, are heavy forests. Another natural resource—one of the most important—is oil. Romania's petroleum deposits are among the richest in Europe. During the war her oil fields and refineries were very important to the German war effort. Therefore they were attacked repeatedly by Allied bombers.

The Danube, great waterway of central Europe, flows along Romania's border and through her territory. Moreover, the nation has a big port city, Constata, on the Black Sea.

In spite of these resources and advantages, Romania has been a poverty-stricken nation. Four-fifths of the people are engaged in agriculture and stock raising. They are hampered by primitive farming methods, inefficient tools such as wooden plows, hopelessly inadequate transportation, and a heavy burden of ignorance and superstition. Few of the peasants can read or write.

Since World War I, many of Romania's great land estates have been broken up and divided among the people, but lack of money has made it difficult for the small landholders to develop their farms and has forced most of them deeply into debt. Some farm workers are so poor that, in order to obtain money, they sell their labor several years in advance. The peasants who own land have very small

plots, because the agricultural districts are crowded.

Most rural dwellings are miserable. Roads are poor, and village streets generally are unpaved.

Romania not only needs to modernize her agriculture, but she also needs to develop industrially. Petroleum is at present the only industry of importance, except for a little flour milling and steel production.

The area now occupied by Romania has been the scene of strife and violence for many centuries. Romans conquered it about a hundred years after the time of Christ. Later it was invaded by a number of barbarian tribes. These bands of people, of course, left their influence upon the culture, language, and population.

Moldavia and Wallachia, occupying a part of the region now known as Romania, emerged on the pages of history about the 13th century. As independent principalities they fought bitterly against each other and also against Polish, Hungarian, and Turkish invaders, eventually falling to the Turks. For almost 400 years afterward they suffered under inefficient and corrupt tyrants, often serving as nothing more than pawns in the struggle between Russia and Turkey. Romania's independence was proclaimed and recognized 70 years ago. Since that time, as a result of wars and Balkan rivalries, there have been numerous changes in her boundaries.

Like other countries of the Balkans and central Europe, Romania has a complex mixture of nationality groups, each one clinging to its own customs and prejudices. This situation, plus the widespread poverty and illiteracy, is among the reasons why that country has never yet been able to establish and enjoy a truly democratic system of government.

## Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 7, column 4.

1. The book was a *diatribe* (dī-trib) against the press. (a) bitter discussion (b) series of untruths (c) intelligent criticism (d) undeserved criticism.

2. The thief showed no *compunction* (come-pungk'shun). (a) fear (b) regret (c) hostility (d) resistance.

3. His *bumptious* (bump'shus) manner made him unpopular. (a) frightened (b) self-assertive (c) unfriendly (d) insincere.

4. Visitors were impressed with the *capacious* (kā-pay'shus) mansion. (a) large and spacious (b) historic (c) ancient (d) unusual.

5. An *eerie* (ē-ri) sound was heard in the cave. (a) very loud (b) weird (c) whistling (d) echoing.

6. The officer was a *valiant* (val-yant) person. (a) brave (b) unreasonable (c) cowardly (d) cross.

7. The delegate continued his *vituperations* (vī-tū-per-ā-shuns). (a) interesting comments (b) supporting arguments (c) explanations (d) severe criticisms.

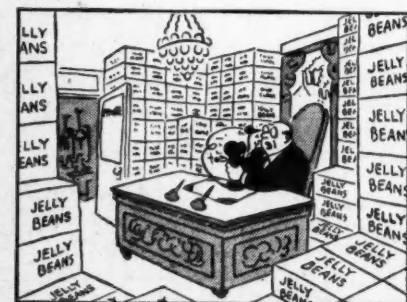
8. A *diffident* (dī-fī-dent) person is: (a) bold (b) timid (c) irresponsible (d) sympathetic.

## SMILES

Employer: "Now for this job, we need a responsible man."  
Applicant: "Then I'm your man. In all my other jobs when anything went wrong, I was always held responsible."

★ ★ ★

"If things keep going the way they are, the government is going to control everything."  
"Well, it will be a good thing when they get around to that boy across the street."



SAURÉ IN SATURDAY EVENING POST  
"Send in that salesman who was going to make the nation jelly-bean conscious"

No one can say the atom isn't all it's cracked up to be.

★ ★ ★

Customer (having a rough shave): "I say, barber, have you another razor?"  
Barber: "Yes, why?"  
Customer: "I want to defend myself."

★ ★ ★

Visitor: "If your mother gave you a large apple and a small one and told you to divide with your brother, which apple would you give him?"  
Johnny: "Do you mean my big brother or my little one?"

★ ★ ★

"What a lovely salmon!"  
"That's not a salmon—that's cod blushing at the price they're asking for it."

★ ★ ★

Mrs.: "Don't you think my new hat is a perfect fit?"  
Mr.: "Fit? It's a convulsion!"

★ ★ ★

Crises are developing so fast these days that the average man stays about a week behind with his worrying.





PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**MACHINES**, like that displayed by Colonel John Morgan above, will replace canaries in mines and other places where dangerous fumes may accumulate. Canaries, more sensitive to fumes than men, have been used to warn of danger. The new machines are even more sensitive than the birds.

## Science News

**A** VACCINE to prevent undulant fever in dairy cattle is being tested at Michigan State College. This disease, which attacks cows, pigs, and goats, may be contracted by humans through unpasteurized milk, and other dairy products. Nearly 220 million pounds of milk are lost each year in Michigan alone, because of this disease in cattle. The vaccine will make it possible to prevent the sickness from spreading through an entire herd, and will make the cows immune to the disease after being treated.

★ ★ ★

Army engineers at Fort Dix, New Jersey, say that telephone wire can now be laid by rockets. In this way it can be stretched over difficult terrain, such as ravines, quickly and easily. A special type of lightweight wire is used.

★ ★ ★

Chemists at Cornell University are making perfume, artificial flavors, and dyes from silicon compounds. Silicon is the basic element found in ordinary sand. These scientists believe that the newly developed substances will parallel in usefulness the carbon compounds which are now being used to make perfumes and synthetic flavoring agents.

★ ★ ★

Experiments conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture show that houseflies can develop a resistance to such chemicals as DDT. Over a period of four years, 35 generations of flies were tested. Each generation became more hardy, and was able to resist increasing amounts of the insecticide. Although DDT has not lost its power to kill insects, it is thought that larger amounts will be required to control many common insect pests in the future.

★ ★ ★

Scientists have found a new and novel way of keeping eggs fresh. A plastic coating placed around the egg is said to preserve it for as long as a year. When this method is used, the eggs need not be placed in a refrigerator or kept in other cold storage.

—By HAZEL LEWIS.

# Norway Overcoming Effects of War

## Political Groups Cooperate in Finding Way to Recovery

**N**ORWAY, a little larger than New Mexico in area, furnishes a striking example of how much a country can accomplish when its people cooperate wholeheartedly in a program of reconstruction. Not long ago that nation asked Americans to send her people no more relief food packages, but to ship them instead to countries in greater need.

Although Norway suffered little destruction during World War II, the end of that conflict found business stagnating, factories in need of repair, the fishing and merchant fleets crippled, and stores practically empty. Soon after victory came, leaders of all political parties agreed on a broad program of recovery. Their reconstruction plan has already accomplished a great deal.

For example, a large shipbuilding program is now under way. Once possessing the fourth largest merchant fleet in the world, Norway lost almost half her ships by enemy action in the war. The prosperity of the country depends largely upon her merchant vessels. Since Norway, because of limited natural resources, always has to buy more from abroad than she can sell to other lands, she would be continuously in debt were it not for the money which her merchant fleet earns by carrying goods for foreign nations. This fact explains the emphasis now being put on shipbuilding.

Another seafaring occupation, fishing, provides jobs for about a sixth of Norway's three million people. It is fortunate that so many Norwegians can obtain their living from work connected with the sea. Barely four per cent of the land in their cold and mountainous country is suitable for farming, and Norway is not particularly rich in resources.

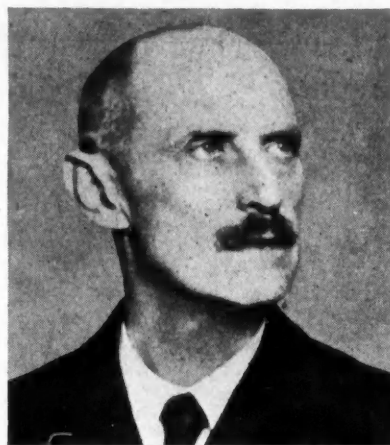
The Norwegians are planning, though, to make good use of the limited natural wealth which their nation does possess. Swift mountain streams provide much water power for hydroelectric plants. The government's recovery program includes the building of many such power stations to provide electricity for homes and industry. Norway already has a number of aluminum plants and chemical

provide excellent harbors, but they have scenic beauty which attracts travelers from other lands. In the summer, moreover, many tourists visit the country's "Land of the Midnight Sun," north of the Arctic Circle.

Like other Scandinavian lands, Norway has long practiced democracy. Her people are well educated. One of the nation's able leaders, Trygve Lie, is United Nations Secretary-General.

In most of Europe's war-torn lands, recovery has been held up by lack of cooperation among political groups. It would be to the advantage of these countries to observe what cooperation has meant to Norway.

By THOMAS K. MYER.



HAAKON, the popular king of democratic Norway

factories. The government is encouraging the expansion of industries in these fields.

In addition to aluminum, the nation has some deposits of iron, copper, silver, and nickel. Coal is shipped in from Spitsbergen, an island possession in the Arctic Ocean.

The mountains have dense forests. These are among Norway's most valuable possessions. The nation sells large quantities of wood products abroad.

The deep, steep-sided inlets, or fjords, along Norway's coast not only

Many people have wondered why the discussions about aid to Europe have dealt, for the most part, with wheat and have not been much concerned with other foods. One answer lies in the eating habits of Europeans.

To the people of Europe, bread is much more the "staff of life" than it is to Americans. Europeans are also great users of certain other food products derived from wheat—for example, spaghetti and macaroni. In Europe there is much less variety in the diet than in America. In this country most of us get only about 25 per cent of our daily calories from wheat products, but in France that figure is doubled. The people of Italy get 70 per cent of their energy-producing food from wheat products.

### Pronunciations

Petru Groza—pay'true grow'zah  
Ion Antonescu—ē-on'ahn-tōn-ē-kōō  
Juliu Maniu—yōō'lyōō mah-nyōō' (y as in yes)  
Pauker—pou'ker (ou as in out)  
Moldavia—mōl-day'vyuh (y as in yes)  
Wallachia—wō-lā'kyuh (y as in yes)

## Letters From Our Readers

I would like to call your readers' attention to the national "Y" conference at Grinnell, Iowa, that I attended last summer. High school boys and girls from all 48 states and from Hawaii, Canada, and from China were there. They represented many youth groups, and were of many races, nationalities, and creeds.

We talked over many problems concerned with the civil rights question. It was, indeed, a great surprise to learn that the basic differences between the groups were few. I hope that, through conferences of this kind, we can rid America of prejudice, class hate, and religious intolerance.

STANLEY ESTRADA,  
Detroit, Michigan.

★ ★ ★

I believe that we must keep our Air Force busy and growing. If there is another war, air power will be the deciding factor. We cannot let another nation be stronger in air power than we are.

DON BAIRD,  
Ponca City, Oklahoma.

★ ★ ★

I read your article on the civil rights report with interest, but I disagree with persons who say that the problem is not important because minority groups here "are much better off than they would be if they were in another country." We should look for phases of our democracy that are weak and try to improve them. We should not say, "Oh, those people are better off here than elsewhere," and let it go at that.

ELAINE FINKBEINER,  
Gaylord, Kansas.

I believe that rising prices in the United States can be checked by restoring the type of price control we had during the war. I do not think this plan would be too complicated to be worked out successfully. There would be some black markets, but not nearly in an amount that would offset the advantages of price control.

DORIS FAUST,  
Valley City, North Dakota.

★ ★ ★

A few weeks ago our Problems of Democracy Class conducted a student poll on compulsory food rationing and the return of price and wage controls. On food rationing the students were about evenly divided. On the return of price and wage controls, we voted about five to one for a return to controls. Our faculty poll on the questions showed about the same results.

CARMELLA PEDONE,  
Litchfield, Connecticut.

I believe we should help the foreign countries now in great need. America lost many lives during World War II, and it is true that the price of those lives can never be repaid. But other countries, in addition to losing millions of their citizens' lives, suffered great property destruction. We have always had a reputation for generosity, and surely now, when others need our help so greatly, we will be willing to do our share toward building up a stable world.

BEVERLY LEEGERD,  
Valley City, North Dakota.

★ ★ ★

In a recent article pertaining to whether or not the United States should increase its production of planes, an opposing view said that there is a limit to the armament burden our nation can bear and that unless taxes are lightened depression may result. I disagree with this statement. After World War I, the United States cut its production of military weapons to a dangerously low point, thereby causing little money to be spent for military purposes. Yet in 1929 we experienced one of the most severe depressions in our history. A few years later we were unprepared for World War II. We should risk additional financial burden in order to insure our security.

NORMA EDGERTON,  
Albany, New York.

★ ★ ★

I think by all means we should send radio programs and movies to foreign countries to explain how we live and work under our form of government.

SALLY THOMPSON,  
Onamia, Minnesota.





# The Story of the Week



FORMER DISPLACED PERSONS who are now farmers in England have practically the same privileges as British subjects

## President and Congress

Congress is now studying a number of the proposals which President Truman made when that body began its regular session early this month. The President listed five major goals for the nation:

(1) "To secure fully the essential human rights of our citizens." He hopes Congress will pass laws designed to protect various racial and religious minorities.

(2) "To protect and develop our human resources." President Truman recommends that our federal government expand the Social Security system, carry out large health, education, and housing programs, and continue rent control as long as the housing shortage remains.

(3) "To conserve our natural resources." One presidential recommendation on this subject is that our government should, in various regions, promote soil-conservation and river-development projects similar to those which have been carried out in the Tennessee Valley region.

(4) "To lift the standard of living for all our people." According to President Truman, our present high rate of production should be increased still more. Steps should be taken, he says, to increase the incomes of people who are now receiving little.

(5) "To achieve world peace." For this purpose, the President advocates a number of measures, including firm support of the United Nations, maintenance of a strong armed force, and adoption of the Marshall Plan for European recovery.

The President's recommendations on the subject of income taxes have caused much controversy. He requested a tax reduction that would be quite large for families with low incomes. He proposed, on the other hand, that the taxes of business corporations be increased.

Most Republicans say that the President, in setting forth his program, was merely trying to please as many voters as possible. They contend that it would cost the government and the American people as a whole many billions of dollars to do everything the President requested. Furthermore, they sharply criticize the Truman plan of increasing the tax burden of business and industry.

Most Democrats, on the other hand, praise the President's proposals. They

argue that the whole nation would benefit if Congress would pass laws to carry out Mr. Truman's ideas. On the tax issue, they say that businesses and industries are so prosperous today that their taxes should be increased still more.

## Youth Weather Station

Students at Malden (Massachusetts) High School are operating what is believed to be the only high school weather station that is recognized by the federal government. Among other things the bureau charts temperature, pressure, humidity, and wind direction and speed. Hourly readings are submitted to a nearby U. S. Weather Bureau, and the students make a daily weather forecast over a local radio station.

This project was started during the war years when there was a particularly wide interest in meteorology among boys who were to join the armed forces. The entire school co-operated to furnish equipment for the weather station. The wood-working classes contributed instrument cases and map frames. Weather vanes were fashioned in the machine shop. The camera club made pictures of various types of cloud formations. The sewing classes busied themselves on weather signal flags. Some of the more expensive equipment was given by graduating classes.

Each day the students send up a weather balloon as one means of getting information. A card attached to the balloon asks the finder to return it, telling when and where it was found. Not long ago a balloon was returned from New Brunswick in eastern Canada, several hundred miles from Malden.

## Mediterranean Force

There is widespread discussion of our government's decision to send a force of at least 1,000 Marines to the Mediterranean. The men are now serving on board U. S. Navy vessels stationed in the waters around Greece and Italy. The leathernecks, many seasoned in battles of World War II, are equipped with guns, tanks, flame throwers, and other weapons.

Some Americans are concerned about this move, and regret that it has to be made. They state their case in this way: "Moving troops and

combat equipment into waters around other nations may easily lead to war. It certainly looks as though we are looking for a fight, and whoever is looking for a fight can usually find one.

"This action seems to announce to the world that we believe the UN is no longer working successfully. When we take up the task of policing such a wide area, we are, in effect, telling the whole world that we have no faith in the world organization."

Others believe that it is a good policy for us to have some armed forces in the Mediterranean area. They say: "Our government has pledged its support to the Italian and Greek people who are fighting communism in their lands. If the Communists attempt to stage a quick revolution and take over the Greek or Italian governments, we would not be able to help put it down unless we had trained forces nearby.

"As for the UN, our move does not mean we no longer have faith in that organization. Everyone knows that the UN has no armed forces, and would be powerless to halt violence if it should break out."

## "The Toughest Job"

In a recent copy of the *New York Times Magazine* Cabell Phillips, a Washington correspondent, gives an interesting picture of how the Presi-

dent of the United States spends a day in what has been called "the toughest job in the world."

A typical "business day" gets underway with a nine o'clock conference around the President's desk with the top members of the White House Staff. At 10 o'clock the President begins a series of 15- and 30-minute appointments with important leaders from all branches of life. Most of the day is taken up with these conferences. Then the President may have to attend a ceremony, greet diplomats from other lands, or meet visiting delegations.

The biggest part of the President's job is making final decisions on matters that shape the future policy of the government. Before he makes up his mind, the President consults with his Cabinet members and other advisers and studies reports pertaining to the particular matter. However, he must make the final decision.

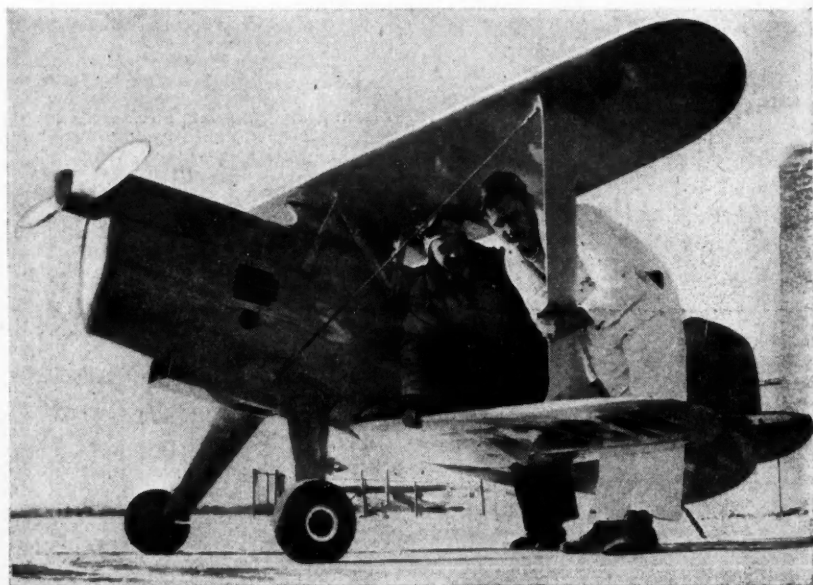
President Truman has about 1,000 helpers on his executive staff. These include secretaries, clerks, and various other aides. Government is far more complicated today than it was 50 years ago when President McKinley had only a dozen helpers. But even with these assistants the President has a tremendously heavy burden and must often work far into the night.

## Watchdogs of Health

The Federal Food and Drug Administration—a little publicized, but highly important government agency—is the subject of a recent article in *Collier's*. Two Washington newspapermen, Robert Loftus and Ronald Van Tine, tell what steps this organization is taking to safeguard all Americans against impure foods, medicines, and cosmetics.

The Food and Drug Administration has several duties. It guards against the sale of foods that, through careless handling or storage, have become unfit for human consumption. It acts against people who make medicines that do not measure up to the claims on the label. It keeps a watchful eye on manufacturers who make foods, drugs, or cosmetics that have harmful ingredients.

At its laboratory in Washington



IT FLIES. Edward Effenheim (right) built this miniature plane (wing span, 15 feet) from plywood and parachute material at a cost of about \$500. Robert Huggins (left) made the test flights near Milwaukee, Wisconsin.





**NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS** sent this treasure chest of books to young people in Japan. Elizabeth Gray Vining (standing with hat on) made the presentation when she returned to tutor Crown Prince Akahito, son of the Emperor of Japan.

this small agency has developed some amazing testing devices to check on the honesty and purity of products. Skilled technicians, using the latest equipment, can now complete tests in a few minutes that, in some cases, used to take weeks.

More than 250 inspectors stationed in various parts of the country check constantly on foods, drugs, and other products. The agency expects that it will get a great deal of additional work as the result of the unlocking of the atom, for it thinks that some quacks and fakers will turn out "medicines" and claim for them "radio-active" powers that do not really exist.

### Western Germany

The British and American occupation areas of western Germany are being drawn closer together. In their economic life, they are coming to be treated more and more as a single zone.

Germans, meanwhile, are being given greater responsibilities. Early this month it was decided that the Economic Council, now made up of Germans elected in the two zones, will be expanded into a larger organization, with a two-house legislature, a chief executive, and a cabinet. This "government," under British and American supervision, will handle economic matters in the areas occupied by our forces and those of Britain. It will be called the Bizonal Economic Administration.

These changes are coming as a result of the failure of Britain, France, Russia, and the United States to agree on a plan for uniting all Germany. American and British officials expect the French to cooperate closely with them in the handling of western Germany, and they express hope that eventually Russia's occupation zone will be allowed to work together with the rest of the defeated country.

### Italy's Constitution

Italy's new constitution, which went into effect this month, provides that the nation may never have a monarch to rule over it. It also bans fascism, the type of government practiced by the dictator Mussolini.

One unusual rule is that the government must find work for all citi-

zens who need it. So far, this rule has not been carried out. Thousands of Italians are unemployed today, largely because factories do not have enough raw materials to keep going. Until such supplies are available, it will be impossible to provide work for everyone.

### Sports Thrillers

The most thrilling moment in sports in 1947 was the subject of a poll recently taken by *The Sporting News*. First in the voting was the ninth inning of the fourth game of the World's Series when "Cookie" Lavagetto of the Brooklyn Dodgers hit a double with two out to win the contest and at the same time deprive the Yankee pitcher, Bill Bevens, of a no-hit game.

The 47 sports experts who took part in the balloting gave second place to the Louis-Walcott fight in which the world's heavyweight champion almost lost his crown. Other events which

ranked as "thrillers" included Columbia's ending of Army's 32-game winning streak on the gridiron, the football victory of the College All-Stars over the Chicago Bears, and Lew Worsham's victory in the National Open golf tournament.

Worsham was also cited by *The Sporting News* for "true sportsmanship." During a golf tournament at Jacksonville he accidentally touched the ball with his hand during the final round and promptly called a penalty stroke on himself. That caused him to finish in a tie for the lead, and he later lost in the play-off.

### Palestine Dilemma

Observers are wondering what will happen in Palestine when, in the near future, British troops leave. Under the present plan a UN commission is to act as a temporary government there while the final plans for the new Jewish and Arab states are being carried out. However, the UN has no troops of its own to keep order. It is widely felt that with the withdrawal of the British, disorders will increase until there is a full-scale war between the Arabs and the Jews.

Certainly in the seven weeks since the United Nations decision to divide the Holy Land, there has been increasing violence in Palestine. More than 600 people have been killed. Bombing and sniping are commonplace. Observers agree that the United Nations commission will have its hands full when it takes over.

One plan that has been put forth is for an international army, composed of troops from a number of UN countries, to go to Palestine to support the commission during the change-over period. Such a plan would call for a great deal of cooperation. At this writing it is not known how many countries would be willing to contribute troops. However, unless the UN commission has some force to back it up, it seems its job will be hard.

## Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

**D**R. ALAN GREGG, a well-known physician, recently pointed to one of the serious defects in the average American's thinking. In an article in the *New York Times Magazine*, entitled "Not 'They' but 'We,'" Dr. Gregg criticized the general habit of calling government officials "They."

"They" are blamed for mistakes, for predictions that don't come true, for bad laws. "It would seem to me," said Dr. Gregg, "to be a definite gain if we should all discard 'They' and realize that 'We' is the more realistic term for the real source of power in a democracy . . .

"State by state, county by county, city by city, town by town, the decency of living and the beauty of life remain matters to be solved by the attitude implied by the word 'We.'"

Dr. Gregg reminds us that this shift in emphasis will not be easy. "If," he says, "we are to change from thinking that our laws are made by 'They' and that 'They' decide what will happen, if we begin to realize it is 'We' who are responsible, then we

have got to give a lot more time to our tasks than when we could slough off the dirty work to 'They.'"

Look at it this way: We put them in office. We can guide them in their decisions by making our opinions known. We can make government succeed by giving it our wholehearted support. If we feel certain officials are to blame for events, we can elect new ones.

The real center of democratic power is in us, in each and every individual who is a citizen of our land. When we look upon our official representatives as a group apart—one to be referred to by the pronoun *they*, we weaken the form of government we want most to preserve. The next time you want to blame them for a bad law, remember it is we who are at fault. Then see what we can do about the problem.



Clay Coss

## UN in Action

**W**ARREN AUSTIN, the United States' permanent delegate to the Security Council, is also representing this country on the Little Assembly which is now meeting at Lake Success. His appointment to the post indicates the importance that the United States is attaching to this newly established body. Dr. Philip Jessup, a Columbia University professor, will act as deputy delegate and will take over for Mr. Austin when the latter is called away by Security Council business.

Mr. Austin has headed the United States' "first team" at the United Nations since the summer of 1946. A native of Vermont, he practiced law for many years in the Green Mountain State before entering on the national political scene. He served in the U. S. Senate from 1931 until 1946. His international outlook and interest in world affairs made him a natural choice for the position of permanent delegate to the United Nations.



Warren Austin

★ ★ ★

For 1948 the cost of operating the United Nations is expected to be about 34 million dollars. While this is undeniably a large sum, it actually figures out to about two cents a year for each inhabitant of a UN member country. In fact, the 1948 budget for the United Nations is smaller than the sum which New York City will pay for garbage collection and clean-up over the same period. It has been estimated that World War II cost the United States alone more than 150 million dollars a day—more than four times what it costs to keep the UN operating for an entire year.

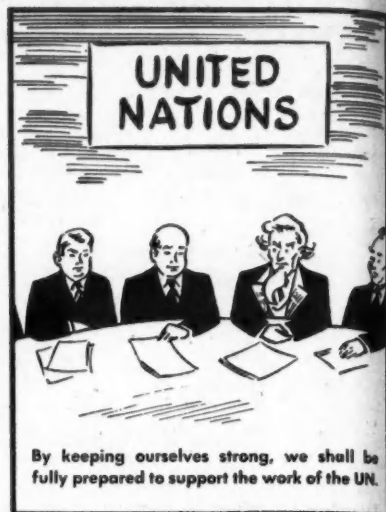
The contributions for the United Nations' expenses have been worked out in accordance with the ability of each country to pay. Wealthy nations give more than poorer ones. At present the United States is contributing 40 per cent of the total yearly cost—which represents about 10 cents from every American.

★ ★ ★

A human mail-order catalogue, listing the names of more than 40,000 persons, is now being drawn up by the International Refugee Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The catalogue will give the names of homeless Europeans who possess technical training and skills. It will present complete information about each individual—his age, nationality, experience, and training.

In a short time the first installment of the catalogue, printed in four languages, will be sent to countries all over the world. Each nation will be free to select persons from the catalogue who are needed in that country—either for special jobs or to teach their skills to others. However, the person selected will not be forced to accept an offer from a country in which he does not wish to live.





THE SUPPORTERS of universal military training give the arguments pictured above in favor of it . . .

## Military Plan

(Concluded from page 1)

ern war has become too swift and terrible. If one or more nations should plan a war against us, they would launch a surprise attack. They would attempt to knock us out *before* we gather strength. Having seen in the last two wars how powerful we can become when given time, they would not give us a chance to prepare.

"Our nation must therefore have large forces in readiness at all times. We shall, of course, depend greatly on our Army, Navy, and Air Force, but we cannot keep them at full war strength. That would require 10 to 12 million men in uniform, and would be too costly.

"A better and less expensive method for peacetime is provided by universal military training—universal because it would apply to all young men between 18 and 20. By training a large new group each year, we could build up a strong military reserve.

"Then, in case of war, we would have millions of men whose early training would be out of the way. It would take much less time to bring their military skills up to date than it would to train the same number of inexperienced men.

"Complicated war weapons, of course, will be handled by regular Army, Navy, and Air Force men. But there are many tasks which could be turned over, in time of war, to men who had been trained in advance. Even though the atomic bomb and other devastating weapons will be used in a future war, millions of men will still be required to operate supply lines, conduct invasions, and defend our land.

"By training men in peacetime, we shall have the manpower for these tasks in time of war. The plan is democratic, because it applies equally to all young men. While the main purpose is to give them military training, the program also will help to make them stronger and healthier. By taking only six months of their lives, it will not seriously interrupt their education. During their training, they will learn working habits which will stay with them always.

"In addition to adopting this plan, the United States should do its part as a member of the United Nations. One of our obligations is to be ready to supply military forces if the UN decides to take strong action against a country that threatens war. By training a new group of young men each year, we can let the UN know it can count on us for such help when it is needed.

"For all these reasons, we should take action now to get universal military training started. We have let our armed forces become too weak for these troubled times, and we dare not neglect them any longer. Let us act before it is too late."

*In reply, opponents of universal military training say:*

"For its defense, our country needs a strong Army, Navy, and Air Force, plus a plan for keeping our weapons and methods of fighting up to date. But we do not need the plan for giving so much military training to all young men between the ages of 18 and 20.

"In the first place, it would end any hopes that the UN may succeed in its efforts to keep peace. The UN is still very weak, largely because so many of its members are suspicious and are still afraid to trust one another. They

are not yet willing to work together wholeheartedly on world problems.

"If we were to adopt compulsory military training, the suspicions would be increased. Other nations would then fear that we were becoming stronger than they. Immediately they, too, would attempt to build up military strength. The race would be on to increase the size of armed forces, and such a race always leads to war.

"So let us not start that fatal contest, but instead place our faith in the United Nations. While it is slowly gaining strength, with our help, we can rely on our Army, Navy, and Air Force for defense.

"With good armed forces, we shall be ready to back up the UN if it ever calls on us for military help. The plan of the UN is to have member nations take action against a warlike country when that country first begins to make trouble. It will not be necessary for each UN member to supply millions of men, as if the entire world were involved in a raging war.

"Instead each member can furnish a few thousand men, with the larger ones supplying as many as several hundred thousand. The United States can do this without going outside the regular forces.

"As for our own defenses, the armed forces should consist solely of men trained to handle the complicated weapons of modern war. They should be given the treatment and pay which will encourage them to make a lifetime career of military service.

"This is far better than training a million new men every year. There are many skills which they could not learn in so short a time, and they would forget much that they did learn. They would have to be trained all over again in time of war.

"Moreover, the atomic bomb has

ushered in a new kind of war. A future conflict would involve sudden attacks against a nation's cities, with a few bombs paralyzing a country before it could resist. In such a war, the United States would have little use for millions of half-trained men in its armed forces.

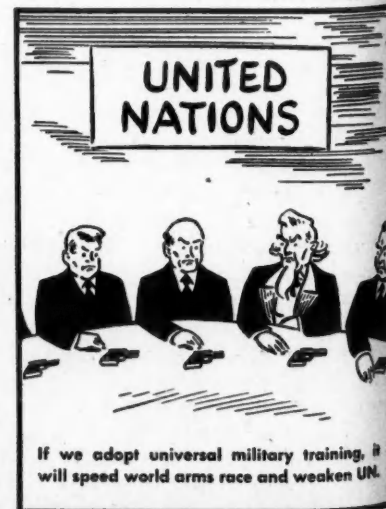
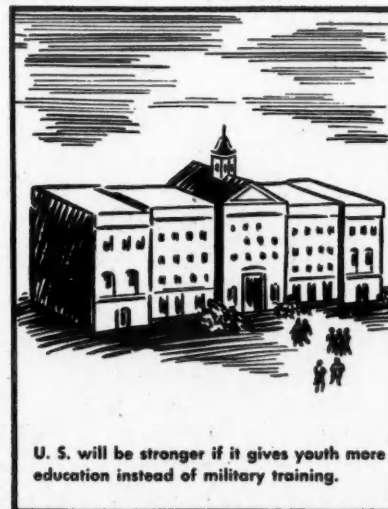
"Compulsory military training would interfere with the education of our young men. Many of them, after having their schooling interrupted, would not go ahead with their plans for a college education. It is true that our nation, in order to be safe, needs trained soldiers and sailors and airmen. But it also needs the finest and best-trained citizens which it is capable of producing—citizens prepared to deal with the great national and international problems of these times.

"Finally, the proposed plan would give the government too much power over the lives of individuals. If such power were to fall into the hands of dangerous leaders, the nation might lose its democracy in the future. We cannot afford to take that chance."

These are the two sides of the debate which is now going on. The American people, through their representatives in Congress, must make the final decision.

Palestine is losing many of its wild animals. Such creatures as lions, bears, deer, and wild sheep are no longer found in that country.

Leopards, which only a few generations ago were plentiful, are now thought to be nearly extinct. These big, spotted cats require a great deal of space in which to live. Since there is very little wild country left in Palestine, the British Zoological Society states that not much can be done to preserve the few leopards remaining in the Holy Land.



. . . ITS OPPONENTS offer these reasons to uphold their position

DRAWINGS BY JOHNSON



# Historical Backgrounds - - by Harry C. Thomson

SINCE Henry Wallace announced that he would run for the Presidency on a "third party" ticket, everyone has been asking the question, "How will this affect the election in November?"

Wallace is not expected even to come close to winning the election, but his party may play an important part in the voting this year. For instance, if Wallace gains the support of a large number of Democrats, he will weaken the Democratic party and help the Republicans. It is taken for granted that such support as he is able to muster will come mainly from the Democrats, since for many years he has been a leader of that party.

The election of 1912 is a good example of the effect a third party can have in American politics. In that year, Theodore Roosevelt was nominated by Republicans who did not like their party's choice of William Howard Taft as its candidate. As a result, the Republican vote was split between these two men, and Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic candidate, won the election.

For more than 100 years, the United States has had only two strong political parties. The present Democratic party has existed since the days of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. Its rival for many years was the Whig party. When this party broke up over the slavery issue, it was succeeded by the Republican party, formed in 1854. Since that time, every American President has been

either a Republican or a Democrat. Many efforts have been made to form other parties, but none of these third parties has ever become strong enough to win national elections. They have seldom polled more than five per cent of the total vote.

One of the most influential third parties in American history was the



ROBERT LA FOLLETTE, SR., led a third party movement in 1924

Populist, or People's party, organized in the 1890's. It was made up of mid-western farmers who opposed the policies of both the Democrats and the Republicans. It advocated aid to farmers, government ownership of the railroads, income taxes, and greater control of the government by the people.

The Prohibition party is the oldest

of the minor parties in existence today. It has taken part in every presidential election for the past 75 years, but has never won a high percentage of the votes.

On several occasions, Republicans have been dissatisfied with their party's candidates and have tried to form a third party. In 1872, for example, Horace Greeley was nominated by citizens who took the name of "Liberal Republicans." In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt broke away from the Republican party, and in 1924 Robert M. LaFollette was nominated by Republicans who refused to support Calvin Coolidge. Although LaFollette polled nearly five million votes (the largest third-party vote ever recorded) he did not win the election.

In general, the record of third parties in American history has been a record of failure. But the influence of these parties has been greater than might be supposed from the small number of votes they received. Many reforms advocated by one of the minor parties have later been adopted by the Republican and Democratic parties.

Most political scientists believe, however, that our system of government benefits by the fact that we have only two strong parties. They say that if there were three or four major parties in an election, none of the candidates would receive a clear majority of the votes. Such a situation would lead to confusion and weakness in government, just as it has in France, Italy, and other countries.

## Study Guide

### Military Training

1. Briefly describe the universal military training plan now before Congress.
2. According to those who favor the program, what effect would it have upon the United Nations?
3. Why do advocates of universal military training believe that it is necessary for our national defense?
4. What do opponents of the plan say about its effect upon the United Nations?
5. Give some other arguments used in opposition to the program.

### Discussion

1. Do you favor universal military training? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Are there any changes which, in your opinion, would improve the training proposal now being considered? Explain.

### Romania

1. Tell of Romania's part in World War II.
2. Describe that country's postwar relations with the Soviet Union.
3. What is the nature of Romania's present government?
4. Name one way in which the policies of the Romanian government differ from those of the Soviet regime in Russia.
5. List some of Romania's natural resources and advantages.
6. What is the chief occupation in that country?
7. Give some reasons why Romania has never been able to establish a truly democratic government.

### Discussion

1. On the basis of your present information, do you believe that the ties between Romania and Russia will become stronger during the next few years, or that they will be weakened? Give reasons.
2. How, in your opinion, could the living conditions of the Romanian people best be improved? Explain.

### Miscellaneous

1. What are some of the goals that President Truman recently outlined in speaking to Congress?
2. How did the Republicans view the President's recommendations? What was the attitude of the Democrats?
3. Why is there some difference of opinion on our government's decision to send Marines to the Mediterranean?
4. Why do most political scientists think that our system of government benefits by having only two strong parties?
5. From the epitaph which Jefferson wrote for his tomb, which of his accomplishments seem to have been most important to him?
6. Name and describe two outstanding personalities in today's news.
7. What did the *Sporting News* recently decide was the most thrilling moment in sports in 1947?
8. What is being drawn up by the International Refugee Organization?

### Outside Reading

"Universal Military Training," *NEA Journal*, December 1947. Details about the program.

"U. M. T. for U. S. A.?" *Congressional Digest*, October 1947. Numerous articles and a pro-and-con discussion.

"A Communist Conquest," by Kenneth Brodney, *Current History*, December 1947. The present situation and events leading up to it.

"Report on Bucharest," by W. H. Lawrence, *New York Times Magazine*, July 13, 1947.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) bitter discussion; 2. (b) regret; 3. (b) self-assertive; 4. (a) large and spacious; 5. (b) weird; 6. (a) brave; 7. (d) severe criticisms; 8. (b) timid.

## American Presidents - - Thomas Jefferson

This is the third in a series of thumbnail sketches of American Presidents which will appear each week in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER from now until shortly after the election next November. Abbreviated sentence form is used to save space.

**Thomas Jefferson's Youth.** Born in Virginia on April 13, 1743, the son of a tobacco planter; led the usual outdoor life of a Virginia boy; began his education at an early age; took up the study of Latin, Greek, and French when only nine years old; entered William and Mary College at the age of 17; upon graduation, studied law and was admitted to the bar. Was a tall, loose-jointed, sandy-haired young man, fond of playing the violin and keenly interested in science and history.

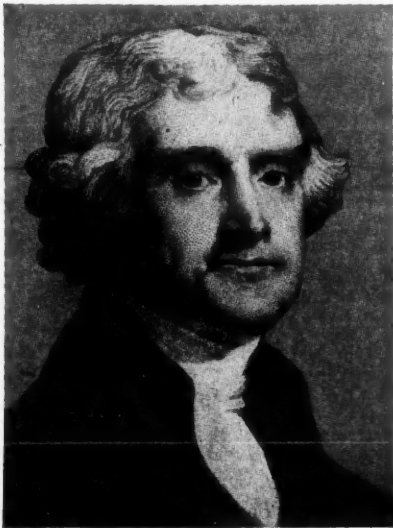
**Revolutionary patriot.** After practicing law for two years, was elected to the Virginia legislature; became an ardent patriot and defended the rights of the colonies against England; was married in 1772 and moved to the beautiful plantation home called "Monticello."

Went to Philadelphia as a delegate from Virginia to the second Continental Congress; there he wrote the Declaration of Independence; later resigned his seat in the Congress and returned to Virginia to work for democratic reforms; advocated religious freedom, public education, and the abolition of slavery; served for two years as governor of Virginia. At the end of the Revolution, was appointed American minister to France.

**Party leader.** Became Secretary of State in Washington's cabinet, shortly

after his return from France in 1789; disagreed with Alexander Hamilton, who was Secretary of the Treasury; opposed Hamilton's plans to form a powerful national government, to create a national bank, and to encourage the growth of factories in the United States. Favored a minimum of power for federal government and wanted United States to remain an agricultural nation.

Finally resigned from the cabinet; organized a political party to defeat Hamilton and his Federalist friends; ran for President in 1796, lost to John Adams, but served as Vice President. Wrote the "Kentucky Resolutions," condemning the laws against freedom of speech passed by the Federalists.



THOMAS JEFFERSON, third President of the United States

**President.** Defeated Adams in the election of 1800 and brought into power the Republican party (later known as the Democratic party); opposed pomp and ceremony in the government; walked on foot from his rooming house to the Capitol to take the oath of office as President; cut the expenses of the army and navy; clashed with Chief Justice John Marshall (who had been appointed by Adams) over the power of the Supreme Court; bought the huge Louisiana territory from France in 1803 for 15 million dollars.

Was elected for a second term in 1804; soon encountered difficulties in dealing with England and France; tried to avoid war by means of the Embargo Act, which forbade all trade with those two countries; but the law resulted in hard times for American shipping and certain other industries, and failed to bring England and France to terms.

Was succeeded as President in 1809 by his close friend, James Madison; retired to "Monticello" and took an active part in founding the University of Virginia; died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

**Appraisal.** One of the most influential leaders in our early history; a brilliant, versatile, and scholarly man; a champion of democratic principles. His own appraisal of himself is found in the epitaph he wrote for his tomb: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia."



## A Career for Tomorrow - - The Mechanic

**Y**OUNG men who like to work with machines may find satisfactory careers as automobile mechanics. This vocation has much to recommend it. The preliminary training covers a relatively short period of time. Earnings vary, but they compare favorably with those in other fields requiring a similar educational background. Since automobiles are used in all parts of the country, mechanics who repair them can choose the vicinity in which they want to live and work.

Nevertheless, the vocation has one striking disadvantage—it is overcrowded. This fact not only means that jobs are often hard to find, but it also means that wages usually drop to low levels during a business depression. As with any crowded vocation, though, there is always opportunity for the worker who is thorough and conscientious, and who prepares himself for advancement by adding to his skills.

There are no fixed standards of education and training for automobile mechanics in most localities. The states of Washington and Rhode Island require a four-year apprenticeship for the prospective mechanic. This includes part-time attendance at night school. When the training is completed, the apprentice must pass an examination before he can qualify as a journeyman.

In most states the automobile mechanic learns his job either in a trade school or by working with experienced men in an informal apprenticeship. If he chooses the latter route he will probably start as a helper, greaser, or washer in a garage. After a few months he will be able to do simple types of repair work. To become an

all-round mechanic, a young man will have to work under the supervision of experienced mechanics for three or four years.

Whether he intends to go to a trade school or to get on-the-job training for his career, the prospective mechanic can begin his preparation in high school by taking courses in general science, physics, mathematics, and mechanical drawing. Information on training requirements in the individ-



A CAREER as an automobile mechanic has many advantages

ual states may be secured from local school superintendents or from the state supervisors of trade and industrial education. These officials can also give facts about trade schools.

It is hard to find accurate information on mechanics' wages. A few years ago a survey showed that the average hourly earnings were from 70 cents to \$1.20—or \$28 to \$48 a week. With the general rise in wages since then, these figures are probably now from \$1 to \$1.75 an hour or from \$40 to \$70 a week. Top-flight workers and mechanics who own their shops usually have much higher earnings.

A young man who is going into this vocation can look forward to greater job security and a better opportunity for advancement if he learns the work of the all-round mechanic. With this general background he may specialize in body work, ignition or transmission work, or in other branches, if he feels such a step will increase his earning capacity. Usually, though, promotions to supervisory positions go to men who have been all-round mechanics.

While most mechanics do automobile repair jobs, some skilled workers find openings in other fields. The aviation industry, for instance, employs many men to repair and rebuild planes. To qualify for such a job one must pass a stiff examination and be licensed by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. Information about this license may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. In writing ask for Part 24 of the Civil Air Regulations.

A booklet entitled "Employment Outlook for Automobile Mechanics," Bulletin 842, Bureau of Labor Statistics, can also be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents. This publication costs 10 cents.

Railroads, refrigerating and air-conditioning firms, business machine companies, and manufacturing industries also employ mechanics. Many of these give the preliminary training that is required for their particular work. Information on the possibilities for an apprenticeship of this kind can best be secured by writing directly to the Personnel Director of large industrial establishments in your locality or in near-by communities.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.



## Tune In!

**A** PROGRAM in which young people learn at first hand about national issues is "Youth Asks the Government." Usually originating in Washington, D. C., the program is heard over ABC stations on Tuesday, 8:00 to 8:15 P. M. (Eastern Standard Time).

Each week several teen-aged youth question a government leader on a subject of timely interest. The guests are introduced by Moderator John Edwards, ABC commentator. From that moment the interview is spontaneous and wholly informal. The program has something of the flavor of a press conference, although the questions are usually on a single subject.

Among the guests in recent weeks have been Senator Glen Taylor of Idaho and Representative Jacob Javits of New York. Senator Taylor was questioned on what steps we should take to keep peace. Representative Javits was interviewed on the displaced persons problem.

Tomorrow evening this program, which is just about to complete its first year on the air, will present another prominent figure.

## Personalities in the News of Today

**G**OVERNOR Thomas Dewey of New York is considered one of the strongest contenders for the Republican nomination for President. As these words are written, he has not yet announced his candidacy, but public opinion polls have consistently shown that he ranks high in the regard of Republican voters.



Dewey

Dewey was born in Michigan in 1902. As a school-boy he ran a magazine sales agency, sang in a church choir, and was much interested in debating. At the University of Michigan he earned part of his expenses by singing in churches. He planned to make a profession of music but later turned to law.

In 1925 Dewey graduated from law school and began practicing with a private firm. Later he became an Assistant U. S. Attorney and afterwards set up his own law practice in New York City. In 1935 he was made a special investigator to look into racketeering and corruption in New York. In this job he became widely known for his vigorous prosecutions. He ended the careers of numerous gangsters and several corrupt politicians.

Running for Governor of New York

in 1938, Mr. Dewey was defeated, but in 1942 he tried again and this time was successful. In 1944 he was nominated by the Republicans for President and was defeated by Franklin Roosevelt in the November election. Two years later the voters of New York re-elected him as governor of their state.

Mr. Dewey enjoys golfing, swimming, horseback riding, and music. He and his wife and two sons spend as much time as possible on their 300-acre farm near Pawling, New York.

★ ★ ★

Gretchen Merrill of Boston, U. S. women's figure skating champion, is now in the last stages of training before Olympic competition. In about two weeks she will glide onto the ice at St. Moritz, Switzerland, to try to win the honor of being the world's best figure skater.

Tiny, blond Gretchen has taken part in athletics for most of her 22 years. When she was four years old, she won a medal for diving. She was also outstanding at tennis and swimming before taking up skating at the age of 10. She was 12 years old when



Merrill

she won her first figure skating championship.

At first Gretchen did not take skating too seriously and three years in succession she was beaten in the competition for the senior championship. Then she buckled down, followed a daily training schedule at Lake Placid, and went to California to study under Maribel Vinson, a former champion. This effort brought Miss Merrill her first senior championship in 1943.

Since that time she has kept her position as the leading figure skater among the women of the United States. Last winter she placed third in the world championship matches at Stockholm. The English girl who finished second at Stockholm will not compete at St. Moritz, but the winner, Barbara Ann Scott of Ottawa, will represent Canada in the Olympics. This time Miss Merrill hopes to outskate her Canadian rival. Whoever wins, the competition will be keen.

★ ★ ★

Although the United States is not represented on the commission which is to supervise the partition of Palestine, the leader of the UN staff accompanying the group will be an American—Dr. Ralph J. Bunche. Dr. Bunche, who served with the special UN committee to Palestine last summer, is expected to set up an office soon

in that Near East country. It will be his task to see that the policies set forth by the present commission are carried out.

The grandson of an American slave, Dr. Bunche was born in Detroit in 1904 and was educated at the University of California and at Harvard. He also studied abroad. For a number of years he was a professor of political science at Howard University in Washington, D. C.

In 1941 he went to work for the Office of Strategic Services. After a time with the State Department, Dr. Bunche joined the United Nations staff as head of the trusteeship division. Trusteeships are his special interest, and it was only after much urging that he accepted the job that will probably keep him in Palestine for a long period of time.

Dr. Bunche has traveled widely in studying race relations and is the author of several books. As a student at the University of California he was a star basketball player on three championship teams. He is married and is the father of three children.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.



Bunche